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LETTER DATED 9 SEPTEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter, dated 8 September 1992, from the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Alija Izetbegovic.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 September 1992 from the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

The right to personal dignity, work, housing, freedom of expression and freedom of religion are basic entitlements of every citizen. The right to life is fundamental.

The inviolability of frontiers is meaningless if murder runs riot within. The aspirations, declarations and undertakings made in London are valueless without the means to hold to account those who deliberately break their solemn word. It is essential to produce evidence which will convince not just the Governments and international institutions, but the citizens of the world, of the need for concerted and sustained action against such transgressors.

The means are at hand.

Remote satellite sensing, fixed wing and rotary aircraft, can all, with suitable equipment, provide incontrovertible evidence in meticulous detail of the topography of the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina and adjacent territories. It is a sine qua non of military planning to engage in the maximum possible reconnaissance prior to any activity. It seems reasonable to suggest that the combined forces of NATO have not overlooked this principle.

The specific points detailed under the headings Cessation of Violence, Confidence Building Measures, Humanitarian Issues, Refugees and Detention Camps, Safe Areas, Sanctions and Violations of International Humanitarian Law, all require the ability to those endeavouring to implement these objectives to have the means at hand to produce all pertinent detail in such a manner as to preclude denial, equivocation and procrastination over legitimate demands for physical inspection.

Aerial surveys are a non-confrontational means of assisting all parties in this essential and urgent work. The methods available are all-weather and 24 hours in capacity. They can be conducted by civilian personnel in suitably identified aircraft. Any party to the London Conference declarations, which seeks to oppose the introduction of such technology must have much to hide from scrutiny of the world.

The Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina formally requests that the joint United Nations-European Community working group immediately take all appropriate measures designed to implement this proposal without delay.

(Signed) Alija IZETBEGOVIC